

**REMARKS**

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated March 1, 2004, Applicants hereby elect Group I (claims 1-12, 22-50, 52-53, 55-62, 64-66, 68 and 70-71). Further, Applicants elect Sub-Group IA (claims 1, 46 and 56, as well as their dependents), **with traverse**.

Applicants contend that the search and examination of the entire application can be made **without** serious burden, and that, as such, the Examiner must examine the entire application on the merits. MPEP §803. For example, the Examiner has already issued two Office Actions (i.e. October 21, 2002 and June 4, 2003) setting forth prior art rejections for the claims, of which claims 1-54 are listed in the application as of the original filing date. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the restriction requirement. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications on the non-elected claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that a complete examination on the merits is now in order. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Nevertheless, Applicants hereby amend claims 13-16, 19, 33 and 54. When the present Application was originally filed, claims 13-16, 19 and 33 depended either directly or indirectly upon claim 1, and claim 54 dependent indirectly upon claim 46. In the February 21, 2003 Amendment, Applicants rewrote claims 13-16, 19, 33 and 54 into independent form since the Examiner indicated that such claims contained allowable subject matter (i.e. October 21, 2002 Office Action). Due to the March 1, 2004 Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby amend claims 13-16, 19, 33 and 54 back into their dependent form so that the claims will be examined in the present Application. Clearly, the amendments do not change the scope of the claims.

Response to Restriction Requirement/Preliminary  
Amendment  
U.S. Application No.: 10/031,408

Attorney Docket No.: Q68137

Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1-56, 61, 62, 68, 69 and 70 should be examined in the present Application.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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